

# The Semaphore

*A Publication of the* TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

A black and white photograph of the Queen Mary 2 cruise ship docked at a pier. The ship is viewed from a low angle, emphasizing its massive scale. The name 'Queen Mary 2' is visible on the side of the hull. The ship is dark-colored with white upper decks and railings. The water is calm, and the sky is overcast.

## The Port That I Love...

Monique Moyer's  
Port Impressions

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ISSUE 179  
SPRING 2007



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## SEMAPHORE STAFF:

EDITOR:	Art Peterson, 101A Telegraph Hill, 956-7817, apeterson@writingproject.org .
COPY EDITOR:	Tony Long, 362-8363 alittlechinmusic@yahoo.com
AD SALES:	Kathleen Cannon, 776-6014, cannonpk@aol.com
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Gail Switzer, 341 Filbert, 788-8667, gail_switzer@yahoo.com
TYPESETTING/DESIGN:	Chris Carlsson, Cloverleaf Productions., 608-9035 cc@chriscarlsson.com

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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



On April 16th at the Waterfront Restaurant, the THD held its annual election and dinner along with a special meeting to vote on a proposal to amend the bylaws. There were spectacular views, well over 100 attendees and all were in good humor. But, frankly, the most amazing part of the evening was that we actually stuck to the agenda as it was noticed. Cocktail hour proceeded right into the special meeting to vote on a proposal to amend the bylaws.

Promptly at 7:00 pm, the proposal to amend the bylaws by petition was introduced. Marc Bruno, the author of the proposed amendment, provided the “pro” amendment argument and Gerry Crowley, a former THD president, provided the “con” argument. Several members were heard from the floor. Only members eligible to vote were given written ballots upon signing in at the door. The ballots were collected, tallied and verified by outgoing Vice President Joe Butler, Membership Chair Sarah Kliban and Recording Secretary Mary Lipian. The proposal to amend the bylaws was defeated by a vote of 67 to 20 and the results were announced at the meeting and by email to the membership the next day.

The evening then proceeded into dinner and a presentation by legendary cartoonist Phil Frank. Mr. Frank delighted the audience by drawing cartoons while providing hysterical political commentary. As the evening drew to a close, the slate of 2007-2008 officers and directors was presented. The membership voted overwhelmingly to approve the proposed

slate of officers and directors.

I am so pleased to welcome 5 new energetic Board members; a hearty congratulations to them and to our stellar returning board members. As a Board, we are committed to establishing and energizing our committees, hearing what is important from folks throughout the hood and kicking off another great year of social events.

Please stay tuned into [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org) for updates on committee meetings, events and THD news.

Finally, I want to thank a very special THD member who served, for the zillionth time, as Social Chair this past year, Pat Swan. She is as sweet and funny as she is tireless and talented. She single-handedly ran our great events from the Chinese Historical Society Cocktail Event, to the Coit Tower picnic, to the DiMaggio's Christmas party, to the Neptune's dinner. She is what it means to be a neighborhood volunteer.



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# NEW THD BOARD MEMBERS 2007–2008

by June Fraps

**H**ere's a little information on our five new THD Board Members



**Bernie Meyerson** is a long-time resident of Bay Street, and a long-time member of THD. He brings expertise in waste management to the board. He'd like to translate his interest in environmental issues into the "greening" of our neighborhood. On a very local

level, he can be seen pushing a broom in a Bay Street alley to keep trash from accumulating.

**Pat Lusse** and her husband, Mike, are long-time residents of upper Grant. Pat has participated in many THD activities, starting with the Crime




Committee back in the days when that involved walking the neighborhood. She brings expertise in database management, a vital skill in her new post as Financial Secretary, keeping THD membership records up-to-date.



**Paul Kohler** has lived in the neighborhood since 1999, with a hiatus of 1-1/2 years to complete his MBA at Oxford. He's in the high-tech industry, working networking, primarily in product management. An active participant in local politics, he's currently corresponding secretary for the District 3 Democratic Club. He recently moved into a new apartment on Greenwich St.

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# FROM THE DESK OF SUPERVISOR PESKIN



The local press has paid close attention to recent legislation that preserved a pair of trees on Telegraph Hill that serve as home base for our local flock of wild parrots. Through that legislation, the City assumed liability for the health and maintenance of these trees that are an integral part of the parrots' adopted urban habitat. Since I live not a hundred feet from where these trees stand (and am therefore precluded from voting), Supervisor Bevan Dufty worked with THD members Mark Bittner, Judy Irving, Nancy Shanahan and others to draft and shepherd this legislation through the Board of Supervisors.

The parrots have become a part of all of our daily lives. Not surprisingly, Bevan tells me that the number of calls and emails his office received on the parrots just about set a record for public interest in any issue he's worked on since he's been on the Board. My office has even received suggestions that the Board of Supervisors declare the flock a roving city landmark.

In an effort to protect both the parrots and their adoring fans, I have introduced legislation prohibiting feeding parrots in our city parks. The Police code currently bans feeding birds on sidewalks and roadways – my legislation would simply add parks to that list. Lest folks interpret my legislation as anti-parrot, let me be clear: hand-feeding birds is bad for both

parrots and people.

First, and most importantly, supplemental feeding artificially increases the number of any urban-dwelling bird past the number our local ecosystem can sustain on its own. Artificially over-breeding means that when people aren't around to feed them, birds will suffer and ultimately won't survive. That's how nature works. What's more, too much seed does damage to a bird's liver, and excessive contact with humans puts birds at risk of contracting viruses their immune systems are not capable of defending against.

Second, just as we humans put birds in danger of contracting diseases they can't defend against, birds pose the same threat to us. A recent study conducted in the Atlanta area by the Centers for Disease Control found a worm that infects raccoons and lives in their droppings was afflicting humans, causing brain damage and even a few fatalities. Birds in general, and parrots in particular, like to roost around in raccoon droppings, meaning that increased contact between birds and humans through hand-feeding also increases the risk of transmission of serious diseases from birds to people.

This is certainly a less-sexy and more complicated piece of legislation than my colleague's bill

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## From the Desk of Supervisor PESKIN

*continued from page 5*

protecting the parrot's two trees on Telegraph Hill, though it's equally important.

In other neighborhood news, I've received a growing mountain of complaints about the elimination of the 15 Third St. Muni line. No doubt the Municipal Transportation Agency, the entity charged with providing public transportation in our fair city, has a tough job on its hands. But in my seven years on this body, never have I seen such a monumental mismanagement of a major service route change.

The deletion of the 15 Third coincided with the opening of the City's newest light rail line – the T Third. Since the bulk of the 15's route was along the same corridor served by the T line, planners assumed they could delete the bus without causing problems. Wrong.

Administrators at MTA argue increased runs of the 9A and 9B lines are intended to make up for the loss of the 15 in North Beach, but the 9 route is a sorry replacement for the 15. I think the MTA is realizing that they made a serious mistake and with any luck at all we should have this service restored some time this summer.

Nonetheless, this episode is just another example of a system that is badly broken. Across the country, dense urban areas are experiencing a transit renaissance – ridership is up and service is expanding in response. Here in San Francisco, just the opposite is happening. Fewer people are riding Muni, and those that do are unhappy with the level of service. The City deserves better.

That's why I am hard at work on a ballot measure to increase accountability for both management and operators. Proposition E in 1999 began the process of Muni reform by creating the MTA as an independent agency. But to increase accountability and efficiency, we now need to go back into that law and change some of the most debilitating employment provisions and rules.

This is not the most popular fight to pick, but I know it's the right thing to do. Our City is headed in the wrong direction—towards greater reliance on private automobiles and a decaying public transit system—and I am committed to helping turn the trend around.

I hope I can count on your support this November, and I look forward to offering more detail on the proposal in the coming months.





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# MONIQUE MOYER LOVES OUR PORT

*At its March 26th dinner meeting at Neptune's Restaurant, THD was fortunate to host Port Director Monique Moyer as the guest speaker. What follows are the inspiring and instructive words she delivered.*

Good evening. I am honored to be your speaker tonight since the Port of San Francisco and Telegraph Hill have a history dating back, in recorded time, to the 1800s. So, I thought I would share with you some of the many aspects of the Port of San Francisco that I find compelling.

*The Port that I love* was founded on Yerba Buena Cove, a bay in which all fleets of the world were said to find anchorage.

*The Port that I love* welcomed its first-known vessel



landing in 1816, almost 200 years ago.

*The Port that I love* built its first wharf, Clarke's Point, in the mid-1840s, at the base of what is now Broadway and Battery where deep waters abounded and the adjacent hill provided protection from the wind. William Squire Clarke, a pre-Gold Rush entrepreneur, built his wharf to facilitate commerce and bring both goods and passengers directly from the moored ships to land. His wharf was built of redwood piles from the northbay, driven into the bay mud with a pile-driver made from a wrecked ship and pig iron.

*The Port that I love* represented more than half of the early City of San Francisco, a wharf city of wooden planks and sheds and subject to devastating fires. Early inhabitants preferred trembling wharves to scrub and sandy hills such as Loma Alta, renamed Goat Hill and known today as Telegraph Hill.

*The Port that I love* clings tenaciously to a seawall, a curving linear embankment of stone, concrete and wood; there are 21 segments of seawall covering the 4 miles from Jones Street to China Basin; it took 37 years and a State-issued municipal bond to complete their construction. In fact, this renowned seawall prompted the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1915 to publish one of its truest statements ever made when it declared the seawall to be "especially strong." That seawall, designed in 1877 and now 93 years old, still maintains its original function, possibly the only waterfront feature to do so.

*The Port that I love* consists of a series of neoclassical and ornamental bulkhead buildings whose grand portals once ushered the San Francisco Belt Railroad under their arches as part of a rail line of over 50 miles connecting every berth and every pier with the industrial parts of the city and the railways beyond.

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## Monique Moyer Loves Our Port

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*The Port that I love* revolves around an elegant centerpiece, a grand edifice known as the Ferry Building, originally funded from a statewide bond measure which passed by a mere 866 votes.

*The Ferry Building that I love* was built on 135-foot Douglas fir piles and is made with stone from a quarry in Colusa (outside Sacramento) despite one State harbor commissioner's concern that the little town of Colusa was "too intensely democratic" and, therefore, not worthy of the order. Just a few years later on a notorious Thursday in April 1906, Navy Lieutenant Frederick Freeman landed his borrowed vessel, a fire boat and a fire tug at the Ferry Building, eventually stringing over a mile of hose around Telegraph Hill and saving most of what is now Jackson Square, the Hill and the Northern Waterfront.

*The Ferry Building that I love* saw more than 50 million people pass annually through it in the 1930s; but by the 1940s, following the opening of our 2 automobile bridges, the Ferry Building was known as the place to "get away from the hurly-burly of modern city life."

*The Ferry Building that I love* is now home to one of

the best known Farmer's Markets, attracting 1½ million shoppers per year including a pair of British royals, Chicago's Mayor Daley, TLC's "Take Home Chef," Curtis Stone, and you and me.

*The Port that I love* thrived on commerce of lumber, steel and cement as San Francisco was rebuilt and expanded post 1906; today, 100 years later, the Port that I love makes its cargo business importing lumber and aggregate from Canada and steel from Asia.

*The Port that I love* became the center of a west coast longshore strike in 1934, culminating in significantly improved working conditions for dockworkers and giving birth to the ILWU.

*The Port that I love* was the final port of call, in December 1941, of merchant seaman bound for Asia whose vessels were targeted by Japanese submarines on the heels of the Pearl Harbor Raid; the Port I love quickly became a military logistics center and shipbuilding flourished.

*The Port that I love*, today, consists of finger piers that, despite much debate and consideration, were not enlarged or filled in to accommodate the birth

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Break Bulk Cargo, circa 1910.





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# NOTABLE NEIGHBORS

In this ongoing feature *The Semaphore* will recognize recent and significant achievements by members of Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

On May 29, **JUDY IRVING'S** film "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill" had its television premier, showing on approximately 300 public television stations as part of the PBS series "Independent Lens." THD helped launch the film by sponsoring its first fundraiser in 1999 at the Eureka Theatre which included a wine and cheese reception, film clips and a slide show by Mark Bittner.

**PETER DWARES** has received the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Jefferson Award as the founder of Pathways for Kids, a non profit organization that connects San Francisco's economically disadvantaged youth with successful mentors. Pathways serves more than 900 students with in-school and off-campus programs including job fairs and field trips The organization also works with after school programs at

locations such as the Excelsior Boys and Girls Club. Dwares goal is to help disadvantaged youth break the poverty cycle.

"We are there to expose young people to different professional careers—lawyers doctors engineers, plumbers and chefs. We let them see how people who have succeeded have done it. They then have a goal and decide to stay in school."

Grant Avenue jewelry creator **PETER MACCHIARINI** has designed "The Wave," one off 12 elaborate fire pits that will restore flames to Ocean Beach after the Park Service banned fires last year because they caused too big a mess. The Wave has been fashioned from recycled steel bars, wire mesh and concrete bricks. An article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* described the Wave as "a bit abstract. It is a bowl that undulates like the surf. Iridescent blue and green glass make it shine like the inside of an abalone shell."

"This is the kind of art I do best," says Macchiarini.

"It's art that people actually use. It's not tucked away in a museum."

**TIMOTHY FERRIS**, who *The Washington Post* has called "the best science wrier of his generation," has been editing, right here in the neighborhood, his film "Seeing in The Dark." It's his treatment of amateur star gazing based on his book of the same name. The film will be shown on PBS stations in September. Filmed largely in California, one segment of "Seeing in the Dark" focuses on local astronomers searching the heavens from in front of Tosca (See photo.)

**Readers are invited to submit other nominations for Notable Neighbors**



"Seeing in the Dark" cinematographer Francis Kenny and director Nigel Ashcroft check the lighting in front of Tosca while shooting local amateur astronomers at their telescope.

# THE BROADWAY REPORT

by Mike Madrid

**O**n Tuesday, March 20th, I attended a meeting of the San Francisco Entertainment Commission. This is the group that deals with entertainment related permits for bars and nightclubs, of which we have more than a few in North Beach. The commission meets every other Tuesday at City Hall, and the public is invited to attend any of the meetings and speak during public comment period.

Since I live near Broadway, and have taken on the task of chairing a subcommittee to deal with issues on the Broadway corridor, I was interested in understanding more about how the commission works, and how it makes its decisions. I made a brief statement about some of the problems that North Beach residents, especially those who live near Broadway, experience on the weekends as a result of the unruly crowds that the nightclubs attract. I urged the commission to seriously consider the implications of any new businesses that they grant permits to in the Broadway area.

The main item on this particular meeting's agenda was a review of the **Zebra Lounge's** entertainment permit. The Zebra Lounge is considered by many residents and Broadway business owners to be one of the main sources of problems on the Broadway corridor. The feeling is that Zebra attracts an undesirable element to Broadway that has changed the street's atmosphere on the weekends. There had been a number of complaints filed against Zebra, including fire code violations and crowd control issues. A serious problem occurred one night when several of the club's patrons attacked a sheriff's deputy, and club security personnel were ineffective in handling the problem. After some deliberation, the commission decided unanimously to suspend the Zebra Lounge's entertainment license. This meant that the club could only be open as a bar, and could

not have any live music or DJ's. The suspension went into effect on April 15th, 2007, and in the weeks following that, weekend activities on Broadway appear to have calmed down a bit. That's not to say that one club is the source of all of the problems on Broadway, but hopefully it is a sign that the character of this street may be evolving again.

Since the City increased police presence and services on Broadway as part of last fall's "crackdown", there has been much debate about the current state of the street. Broadway has a long, colorful history as a nightlife center in San Francisco, however, over the last few years, residents and local business owners have noticed a change in the mood of the street. New clubs started to draw large, often unruly crowds to Broadway, bringing violence and increased tension to Friday and Saturday nights. With the closure of Enrico's last fall, many North Beach locals felt that there was little to appeal to them on Broadway anymore. The street had seemingly been taken over by the out of town weekend crowds, and many locals felt uncomfortable even walking down Broadway on the weekends. The raucous behavior of many of the Broadway habitués had been slowly spreading up to Grant Avenue, so that many North Beach residents began avoiding the neighborhood as a whole on the weekends. This also affected longtime favorite spots like Tommaso's, which many locals now only frequent on weeknights.

Since the "crackdown", the Central Station police have had more and better resources with which to restore some order to Broadway. Although some Broadway business owners object to the increased police presence, residents for the most part have been relieved to see increased law enforcement activities on Broadway. Central Station police statistics show a definite decrease in violence on Broadway, and they feel that the situation will only continue to improve

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## Monique Moyer Loves Our Port

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of “modern” containerization.

*The Port that I love* houses and nurtures a small but brave commercial fishing fleet of men and women who pass their craft from generation to generation and who perform dangerous, backbreaking work; work that might be harder than farming the tundras of Nebraska and Iowa; more dangerous than coal mining in Virginia but in San Francisco is romanticized by locals and tourists alike.

*The Port that I love* is home to the venerable Bar Pilots, the tractor tugs, two fire boats, a rigged sailing ship, a liberty ship and a submarine, a colony of sea lions, pedicabs, trolley cars and horse-drawn carriages.

*The Port that I love* glistens in the early sunlight hours as only the natives saunter to and fro in Aquatic Park and Fisherman’s Wharf, swimming (maybe even bathing), dining and connecting in a mix of generations and relations.



*The Port that I love* hustles in the early mornings with the pitter-patter of heeled shoes as commuters from around the Bay rush off ferries and cross the Embarcadero into the hallows of the Financial District.

*The Port that I love* tingles with anticipation each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning as farmers methodically unload their organic wares before the hoards arrive.

*The Port that I love* brims with the energy and buzz of 100 craftsmen under the midnight moon as a ship is hurriedly repaired, rehabilitated or renovated before it is sent off across the globe.

*The Port that I love* in the end, is no longer used by the purposes for which it was built; and thanks to the airport (and now the internet) is no longer the gateway to San Francisco; nor does it represent more than half of a newly formed city.

*The Port that I love* is like an elderly woman, her make-up carefully hiding her wrinkles and lines, dreaming of days gone by, waiting to be needed again by the child she birthed, the City of San Francisco. ✕



# NUA—MUCH MORE THAN A WINE BAR

by Carol Peterson

NUA, 550 Green Street, 433-4000

★★★★1/2

North Beach has always been a destination for those in search of good food, but, unlike some other neighborhoods, ours has never been much of a hub for “buzz” restaurants in close proximity to each other. However, now we have a new cluster of establishments that can hold their own anywhere: El Raigon, COI, Mangarosa, Scott Howard, Myth and, one of our newest restaurants, NUA.

One night, before attending a musical performance, we walked over to NUA for a glass of wine and a few appetizers. The restaurant was crowded and filled with energy. Since the establishment is touted as a wine bar, we let David White, the managing partner, suggest a wine. He picked a fruity and unusual char-

donnay with an exploding after bite. It was a wine we, left to our own devices, would have overlooked.

We ordered the mixed chicory, orange and grapefruit salad that turned out to be a pure delight. Tiny bits of date added sweetness, and the marcona almonds provided a crunch. A champagne vinegar-tarragon vinaigrette was subtle enough that the taste of the vinegar didn’t compete with the acidity of the citrus. Our next selection was piquillo peppers stuffed with a potato puree and served with a persillade sauce, another outstanding dish.

We went early on our second visit, and I was able to take in the beautiful design of the room. There are bunk head seats built into the walls, with contemporary handmade wooden table tops, and chrome

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## BROADWAY REPORT *continued from page 11*

over the next several months. But policing the situation is only one solution. Many residents feel that the return of some neighborhood serving businesses would inspire locals to return to Broadway, and “take it back”. Over the last month or so, there have been signs that a change may be in the air on Broadway. Several establishments such as the **Crowbar**, **Velvet Lounge**, and **Sake Lab** have either closed, or are reopening under new management. The vacant space at 270 Columbus (the old Bank of America building), at the corner of Broadway where Carl’s Jr. was located for many years, will be opening as **Campo dei Fiore**, a new Italian restaurant. Managed by the owners of longtime North Beach staple **The Steps of Rome**, this new restaurant will hopefully be a huge improvement over the string of clubs that have occupied this space over the last couple of years. With a rumored reopening of **Enrico’s** happening some time in the future, **Campo dei Fiore**, along with **Andrew**

**Jaeger’s** and **Impala**, will hopefully bring a better balance to Broadway, and perhaps bring locals back in the evenings. The bawdy atmosphere and adult entertainment venues are a part of Broadway’s history, and no one is looking to sanitize that too much. However, Broadway is part of North Beach, and in one way or another, it affects the entire neighborhood. North Beach residents, whether or not they live in close proximity to Broadway, deserve a safe, well-managed street that they don’t feel they have to avoid on the weekends.

In addition to chairing the Broadway Corridor Subcommittee, I am the Telegraph Hill Dweller’s new liaison with the Central Station police. If you have any questions or concerns about how things going on in the neighborhood, or want more information about local police meetings, please contact me at [heaven4@pacbell.net](mailto:heaven4@pacbell.net)



# DR. ROBERT ALLEN MAJOR, OUR THIRD TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS' PRESIDENT

By Rozell Overmire

In 1958, when the Telegraph Hill Dwellers organization was only four years old, Dr. Robert Allen Major became its third President. Fred Meyer, an Executive at Granny Goose Foods, and Ken Evers, a contractor, had preceded him, both urged on by neighborhood issues like a 40-foot height building limit, off-street parking, and a proposed rehab of Washington Square Park.

Dr. Bob, as he was fondly called, lived off and on Telegraph Hill for 52 years, until his death on January 11<sup>th</sup> of this year. He was a general practitioner and family physician who had moved to San Francisco in 1956 from Nocona, Texas. He and his brothers had established a successful medical practice there after World War II in the new Major Clinic Hospital built by their parents. Dr. Bob served in the Army Medical Corps at Fort Sam Houston and across Europe with the Fifth Auxiliary Surgical Group as an anesthesiologist and assistant surgeon. He landed on Utah Beach August 28, 1944 and the field hospitals to which he was attached were a part of Patton's 9<sup>th</sup> Army. He was discharged as a Major in May 1946.

Bob met his wife to be, Patricia Carson Major, in the Nocona Rotary Club in Texas. He proposed to her in only a few hours after they met. They were married on Telegraph Hill on January 13, 1956. Patricia was one of the original few that started the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. She was a lawyer and served as the counsel to THD's Board for ten years. Bob continued his practice of medicine in the Parkside

district of San Francisco until he retired a few years ago. He is survived by his wife, four children, and six grandchildren. Besides his medical practice, Bob loved to travel, especially to Paris, and was a true football fan and an art and book collector.

During his time with the Hill Dwellers, Bob faced many issues that we still try to solve today: Restricting building heights to 40 feet (started by a Montgomery Street builder who wanted to put up a 120 foot apartment building between Speedy's Market on Union Street and Montague Alley); saving the 39 Coit bus route; rehabilitating Washington Square Park (an underground parking was proposed); fighting for parking and eventually achieving the "A" sticker - the first residential time limit neighborhood parking in S.F.; saving the Street Fair (from Beatniks then); banning billboards; and, in 1957, beginning the effort to save the Presidio lands.

A THD Planning and Zoning committee was started during Bob's presidency. The committee fought a dramatic freeway proposal by the state, one that would cut through Telegraph Hill to connect the Bay Bridge to the Golden Gate Bridge

Of course, there were times of celebration. A Carnevale Parade was sponsored during Bob's time—a delightful event where people dressed up for the occasion and marched through North Beach.

So we take our hats off to Bob and the first presidents for founding our organization with such spirit and dedication, and we hope to continue the care they lavished on our part of San Francisco. ✕



# PARKS & TREES REPORT



By Joe Butler

## Attention! Green Alert!

The retiring THD Vice President is looking for a replacement as Parks and Trees chair. Lots of folks have great ideas, even more want to plant trees or spruce up the right of way garden on their block, but we need someone to take on the job of organizing all of that energy. Here is the lineup of exciting projects you might inherit:

### Empty Tree Basins Planting Plan:

As part of the Mayor's Green City initiative, THD is seeking to plant the empty basins on our streets. These are locations where trees once were, but have died, been hit by a car, or gone to the dogs. Friends of the Urban Forest is working with us to find these basins, get owner signatures to replant, and provide the tools and volunteers to do the work.

### Vallejo Stairway Garden:

The neighbors above the rock slide have created, tended, and maintained the gardens along the stair from the summit of Vallejo down to Montgomery Street. THD Director, Mike Madrid and his neighbors organize weed parties, to clean out the abundance of spring, allowing the intended plants to have room to grow.

### Pioneer Park:

The five acre parcel surrounding Coit Tower is an endless joy to thousands of visitors, tourists and residents, whether viewing the green from afar or enjoying the local SF native wildflowers up close, people flock to Pioneer Park. New efforts to continue the reforestation are brewing, and volunteers (come on all you dog walkers, tai chi practitioners!) are welcome to help out.

## Washington Square Lighting:

The Recreation and Parks Department is moving forward with plans to augment the lighting in Washington Square Park. With a generous grant from the SF Public Utilities Commission the dream is nearly a reality.

## Washington Square News Racks:

Currently underway is a plan to install fixed pedestal mounted, coin-operated news racks. We are working with the city and the local publishers to find a positive, cleaner way to distribute newspapers.

## DiMaggio Field:

In early May, the Friends of Joe DiMaggio playground met to celebrate the outdoor furniture secured for the renovated bocce court area at the North West corner of the park. There is an active and informed neighborhood advocacy group that can always use another pair of hands.

Contact the interim chair, F. Joseph Butler, (415 956 5307) if you want to plant a tree, improve a park, or make a donation to enhance the green spaces that benefit all of us.





# SPOTLIGHT ON ART

by Sherry O'Donnell

*Below, Sherry Sherry O'Donnell continues her series of interviews with North Beach artists.*

Sherry: We are here today with MoMo, a long-time North Beach artist whose art tends to appear around the neighborhood, leaning against trees or signposts, waiting to be "adopted." He's been doing this for years.....

S: How and why did you start making art and leaving it around North Beach?

MoMo: I'm considered an "Outsider" artist, and typically in Outsider art, people at a later age who have shown no proclivity towards making art, suddenly and compulsively start making art. In my case, I was in my forties when the bug hit me. The deal was, I didn't have any money for materials, so I worked on cardboard and I lived in a tiny room, so I had to get rid of it, so I just started putting it out at my own little

sidewalk art shows.

S: Did you find the pieces were usually taken?

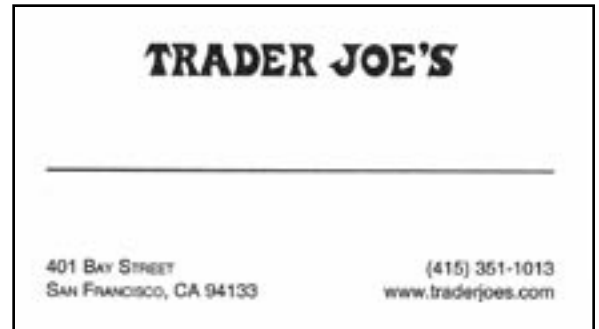
M: Pretty much always taken. I have a lot of random "children" out there somewhere. I've actually gone to people's homes, people I didn't know, to a party or something, and they had one of my pieces on the wall, which is kind of cool...

S: I was very excited when I found my first MoMo, an Allen Ginsberg collage. I had heard so much about you, it was like finding a treasure. It's still on my wall.

M: The thing is that it's my form of graffiti. Graffiti is just self expression in public or on the streets, but I'm against marking things or destroying property, so that way I could do my own graffiti and then it would go away.

S: So what were you doing before you put paint to cardboard?

*continued on page 20*



# THE HILL SP

by *Julienne Christensen*

While it's true that for many hill dwellers the most recognizable seasonal changes at Pioneer Park involve the length of the car backups along Telegraph Hill Boulevard, there is something about the warmer weather and longer days that lures us, like the pioneers and Native Americans before us, to the top of Telegraph Hill. Despite the muddling effects of a balmy February and drizzly April (or, maybe, because of them) spring came bountifully to the hill—an especially abundant burst of blue ceanothus, pink volarian, orange California poppies, pale Douglas iris, a parrot-pleasing crop of cotoneaster berries. Spring grasses give the park a seasonal green veneer.



Walking the hill and thinking of cycles led me to consider the turns of bigger wheels. Pioneer Park was purchased by private citizens and turned over to the City for public use one hundred and thirty years ago last year. The Gray Brothers' last quarrying blast on the east side of Telegraph Hill was less than a hundred years ago. We're just a year away from the 75th anniversary of the opening of Coit Tower. September will mark six years since the Pioneer Park Project's neighborhood volunteer efforts added stairways and the south lawn and more native plants to the hilltop.

If you noticed Pioneer Park looking a little happier and spiffier lately, that may be due to cycles in addition to sun and rain—administrative and fiscal ones. After several difficult years, Pioneer Park has a (nearly full time) gardener again.

# PRINGS UP



his care. He's working to improve the flowerbeds and planters around the tower, to improve the plantings along the west side paths, to remove and replace dead plant material on the slopes below the south lawn.

Perhaps most important, Mark is reviewing the 25 year reforestation plan developed during the Pioneer Park Project renovation. We're working with him on strategies to restore the views of the Bay to the north without the costly and dangerous topping of the old cypress trees and to begin building a band of attractive habitat plants encircling the parking and viewing areas. It is really the northern equivalent to the work done six to ten years ago on the south side of the park.

Another season, more milestones, and another attempt to do our part to leave Pioneer Park and Telegraph Hill ready for those who will walk the hilltop after us. ♦



Mark Tilley worked as a landscaper during college. Ten years into his intended career his longing for the outdoors led him to double back and enroll in the Merritt College Landscape Horticulture program. Mark interned at the Japanese Tea Garden, decided to join RecPark, and was delighted to find Pioneer Park his first posting.

Those of us who have worked hard to improve the park were crestfallen when we completed the renovation and then had budget cuts and staff attrition leave us without a consistent, full-time gardener to care for and finish implementation of the new plantings. Mark's appearance has given us renewed hope and the park is already responding noticeably to

## Spotlight on Art: Momo

*continued from page 17*

M: Well, my deal was that I tried to be a poet. I came out here to be a poet, and I wrote poetry for about 15 years, and basically two things happened. Number one, I read enough poetry to figure out I wasn't really good at it, so I had the presence of mind to give it up for a while. Number two was, although I gave really good poetry readings, every once in a while one of my lines would crack people up, so I started to realize that this might be the way to go, and that led into the cartoons which I draw, and going for the humorous approach. I'd come up with the funny lines in the poetry when I was going for the serious, romantic, beatnik, and I'd make people laugh, so I got into it that way.



Momo

S: Your work is broad in its range and with a certain naiveté; it's always quite provocative.

M: Right. One thing I should bring up is that I was a kindergarten teacher in San Francisco for 15 years.

S: While you were a poet?

M: Yes. It was over in the Haight Ashbury. Basically, I'd watched children making masterpiece art and I actually work the exact way a kid works, which is... #1: You don't care, #2: Go in; if there's nothing over here, put something there, then if there's nothing there, or there, put something there and there, so it always winds up balanced. I've learned mostly all I know from kids...

S: I must say, I do love your large piece with a muted abstract background that simply says, "OBVIOUSLY."

M: Well, there you go, a minimalist piece. I try everything. One thing about Outsider art in my attitude, is that you can do whatever you want, so in other words, what's my style? My style is just that, I can do whatever I want and it's usually dictated by the materials I have. All my materials are donated or taken from work discards or stuff like that. Only in one short period of my life did I ever have enough money in my pockets to even go into an art store and it was my only absolute fallow period.

S: So, you were inhibited by choice not chance?

M: Oh, totally, totally...so now, for example, in my room I have 3 colors of paint and all my new work will be done with those paints until they run out, and then I will get some other paints and then my work will be those colors or whatever, so it's whatever comes through. The neighborhood is great for that, everybody has been helping me out for 20 years.

*continued on page 24*

# YOU NEED NERT

by Jack Oswald

Maybe the most important thing to know about the Next Big One is that after that very significant earthquake you will likely be on your own for several days. There will not be enough firefighters (only 300 hundred are on duty at any one time) or other first responders to meet all the community's needs.

That's where the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) comes in. The NERT program, established after the 1989 earthquake, provides essential training to prepare individuals to take care of themselves and those close to them and—if they choose—other members of the community. Those enrolled in the training learn the basics like how to shut off gas and water. But they'll learn too about using fire extinguishers, ways to stop bleeding, ways to perform light search and rescue, the basic principles of disaster psychology, and much more.

NERT training will be coming to North Beach in June at the Telegraph Hill North Beach Neighborhood Center, 660 Lombard. The training will begin June 12, Tuesday and run Tuesdays and Thursdays for 3 weeks, from 6- 9PM. (June 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28). It's not likely that this issue of *The Semaphore* will reach readers by the June 12 date. However, though it is preferable to take the course in sequence, it is not necessary to complete the entire training in order. As long as all six sessions are completed at some point at some location one can "graduate."

I myself first became aware of NERT when my friend Andy Proehl, who was living in the badly damaged Marina District at the time of the 1989 quake, underwent the training. Andy told me "I decided to go through the training because I was feeling nervous and unprepared for another earthquake in San Francisco. I left feeling like I was part of the solution. If one hits, I'll be better prepared to help myself and others."

I signed up for the training. I learned right off how little I knew about disaster survival. Sure, I'd heard you need to have a supply of water, but how much? Now I know that every person and pet needs a gallon per day. For two people and a dog, that's 21 gallons for three days, the recommended minimum amount of time to stock supplies. That's a lot more than I had on hand. In fact, some experts, after seeing what happened in

*continued on page 26*

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# THE ALFA NOSE

by Kathleen Cannon

*Follow the Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce as it moves into spring around Telegraph Hill.*

## What Works for Prince Charles...

The well-dressed tall fellow standing between me and a sample of strawberry jam at the SF Farmers Market on Embarcadero was shaking a little girl's hand when I recognized him as Mayor G. A copy of *The Semaphore* became my introduction. He actually promised to read it. (Test Tuesday). Then we both attacked the jam. Jane Connors (Ferry Building Communications Specialist) confirms Gavin attends the Farmers Market at least once a month, shopping for organics...votes can grow too. Jane invites Hill Dwellers to a Spring Fete at the Farmers Market...we could ride the orange Pininfarina streetcar (yes, the same Milano coach designer as Spider).

## A Pot of Gold . . .

best describes N. Beach on St. Patrick's Day, a celebration for the young and thirsty. It was an event punctuated by green hair, tight green T shirts, flashing beads and cell phones. Moose's featured non-traditional Irish music laced with jazz -- The Gasmen (jazzy, tasteful and popular). SRO at Gino & Carlo, Columbus Cafe and Amante, once you got by the carding at the door where only leprechauns and unicorns were able to slip past without credentials. Long

lines at O'Reilly's and also at Rogue Ales where the gentleman guarding/carding at the doors revealed that since 12-noon, celebrants flowed "in-out every hour, and the line keeps moving" (12 hours x 100 capacity x Guinness = do the math).

The drink of choice: a "Car Bomb" (jigger of Bailey and Jamison dropped into Guinness). O'Reilly's (\$20 entry per tourist) did not even include a green beer. At 220 capacity, door guard estimates 1500 have passed through by 4PM. Three live bands were scheduled for the club that evening. This year the street was not blocked off. The guard explains: "no street permit because of a disagreement between O'Reilly's owner and the station Captain." Didn't seem to make a big difference.

On to the The Saloon that features "Tony Perez and 2nd Hand Smoke"...quite good, so I stop to enjoy it, but a leprechaun inquires if I'd like to "smoke a bowl" and I have to card him...you're 20 years too late, son.

At Sotto Mare (Under the Sea), on Green, Chef Giacomo Giacomini is on the doorstep watching the St. Patty's Day festivities. Inside reveals a party and preview of an Oyster Bar fashioned after Mayes Oyster House on Polk. In fact, the stylish oven hood is from Mayes. Before heading home, I inquire of the local Polizia how things are going... just a fight at Capps Corner, and they had to take in a girl who was too happy, too green, too gone. A girl could get in a lot worse trouble than green beer before the night is over, so better safe in the hoozga.

## Sputnik.. nik, nik, nik

If you recall Sputnik, you recall a different era and its impact on "beat" and Beatniks. Some pieces of Sputnik 1 (there were three Sputniks) landed in The Beat Museum in late February 2007 to a big reception. These artifacts can be traced to December



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## THE ALFA NOSE

1957 when Bob Morgan saw something crash and glow in his Encino yard and collected the pieces. All he wanted was to get his hands on the \$50k reward, as represented by a local radio station (don't we all?). But the U.S. Government said they had no reward... see the radio station. So Sputnik 1 hit the Beat circuit as a symbol of the era.

### Ferlinghetti is Right,

On March 24 Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Jack Hirschman and John Perino held an Opening Reception at Live Worms Gallery of Ferlinghetti's paintings to celebrate LF's 88th year of being right brained. Jack's paintings and John's photos were also shown. Ten days later, on the evening the show closed, Jack and Lawrence read Pasolini, which was also recited in Italian. Why does anything in Italian sound so much better?



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St. Stupid's Day hits Washington Square.

### Who's A Fool?

I was determined to be a fool this year—on April 1, Saint Stupid's Day—and arrived in Washington Square just in time to hear a rendition of The Prozac Blues. The Saint Stupid's Day Parade had begun at "The Pointy Building" (Trans Am). En route the revellers threw pennies at the BofA ("Donate money to BA") and had a "Sock Exchange." Imaginative costumes filled the park. Well, some fools only wore their birthday suits, but they had a lot to say. Master of Ceremonies Bishop Joey of the Mime Troupe had

*continued on page 27*

## Spotlight on Art: Momo

*continued from page 20*

S: I want to talk about the group pieces you invited the neighborhood to create with you. You had two large canvases that you set up outside the Trieste, and invited all and sundry to come and paint on said canvases, then you came back and refined them. You created two great neighborhood canvases.

M: Well, it was just an idea that I had and it worked out really good. I got these 2 big pieces of canvas and thought, how can I work the neighborhood into it, and I said the way to do it is to tell everybody that they can draw anything, letters, squiggles, shapes....so people who'd considered themselves non-painters or whatever were not scared to make a squiggle or a shape. The thing is, it's the old Dada principle of pure chance. It always works; like an Exquisite Corpse, it always works. We made two really beautiful

paintings, which I've been working on like crazy since then. I'm working on them every day. We mentioned style, well because of these canvases, I'm really getting interested in abstraction and I don't know if I want to do that or the cartoon thing.

S: How many colors did you use for the group show?

M: The group paintings, well that's the interesting thing. One of the things with doing art with children is that most people make the mistake of giving them too many colors and so most children's watercolors or paintings end up being brown basically. So I would often give a child only a couple of colors, sometimes even just white and black, so they end up being distinct. I used that same principle here and started out with just black and red. And then it was coming along so nicely, I ran across the street to the hardware store and bought yellow. So we had black, red, and yellow, so those were the three.

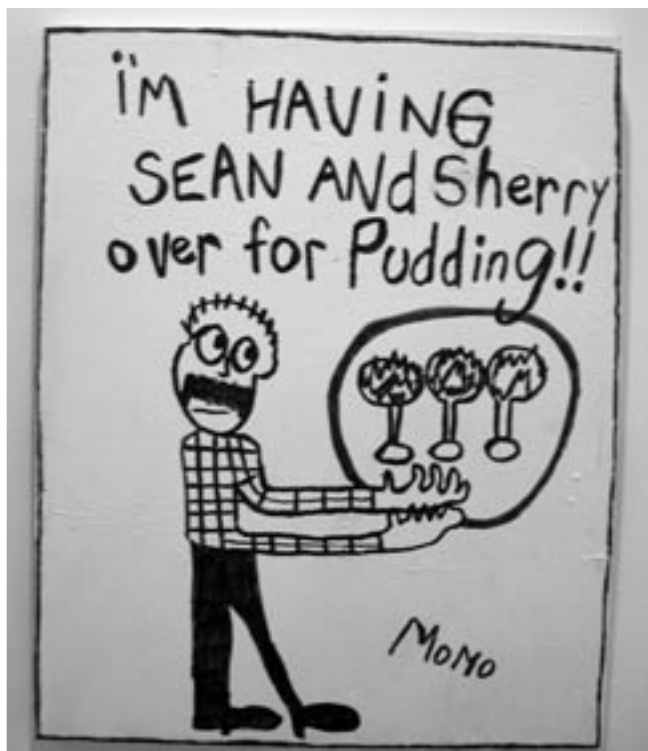
S: I am curious... Are you still leaving things out from time to time in the neighborhood to be taken? Is this something we can still look and hope for?

M: I've enjoyed that. Interestingly enough I now have an agent who's very serious about working with me. I'm not supposed to sell them cheap or give them away right now and it's going to be interesting how that's going to work out because I would hate to give that up completely. I love the whole Buddhist thing, the random thing, because with those I just walked away from them, I didn't watch to see who took them, it was totally at random. No matter what happens in my career, I'll continue to do that.

S: That's a wonderful thing, like finding treasure.

M: Thank you Sherry

S: And thank you MoMo.—for everything!



Momo's Art



## Restaurant Review: Nua *continued from page 14*

and black modern chairs. A large burnt orange stripe tastefully punctuates the ceiling.

We left the wine in the hands of our waiter, Umberto. The wines are pricey here, but you can get an excellent bottle in the \$40 range. Umberto chose an Oregon Pinot Noir that perfectly matched our meal. The grilled chicken spiedini, consisting of chicken thigh pieces and yellow summer squash on a skewer was outstanding. The salsa verde that tops this dish, combines garlic, olive oil, mint, wine vinegar, Meyer lemon and parsley, all finely chopped. You will never be satisfied with plain chicken skewers again after experiencing the intensity of this salsa that claps its hands at you with every bite.

In a restaurant, I often order fish with trepidation. "Is the fish going to be dry?" Not at NUA. The king salmon is a local fresh fish served flakey, tender and perfectly cooked. It sits on top of a bed

of delicate white asparagus, tiny bits of cured pork and delightful fiddle leaf fern hearts, with a very light sorrel cream sauce.

If for no other reason, go to NUA for dessert. We were served the most unusual treat I have ever tasted: iced passion fruit and mango with a smattering of strawberries and grapefruit. With every bite, the sweet-sour combination stands at attention on your tongue.

Chef Anna Bautista joins David on this new venture, coming from The Public and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor restaurants. It is going to be interesting to see her expand her many talents at this new, chic eatery. David also has a loyal staff that has followed him to NUA. The service is impeccable and every little nuance is attended to. When we finished our meal, our car was at the curb, Umberto had timed it so we wouldn't have to wait.

Welcome to the neighborhood, NUA. They say cream always rises to the top. This new treasure is already there.



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# VINCE AND RON:

## A STORY OF HOMELESS ADVOCACY FROM THE GROUND UP.

By Brady McCartney

Last year as part of our quarterly Client Profiles Column in the Semaphore, I wrote a piece on a North Beach Citizens client named Vince. The article outlined Vince's journey from life on the streets to life indoors and discussed NBC's involvement in Vince's struggle. Since the publication of that profile, Vince has continued working an assortment of jobs and volunteering at North Beach Citizens and in recent months has become a Peer Advocate for a homeless friend of his named Ron.

Ron, 64, moved to San Francisco 30 years ago from Western Pennsylvania. He worked as a cook for his first 14 years in San Francisco. Sixteen years ago, Ron became jobless and homeless after his body succumbed to the weight of years of smoking and physically taxing jobs. Vince and Ron met when Vince first became homeless in North Beach.

While on the streets, Ron developed supportive relationships with a handful of the businesses surrounding his doorway. Vince was a newcomer anxious to learn the ropes of street survival. After feeling each other out, the two slept in adjacent doorways for 5 years.

Fast forward to the beginning of 2007, housed and stable Vince decided he wanted to increase his involvement at NBC beyond helping with maintenance, deliver-

ies, and cleanup. He had struggled through the process of obtaining ID, a livable income, and suitable housing. But now, empowered by his experience, he was eager to pass on the insider knowledge he had acquired to motivate Ron to act, to assuage Ron's fears, and to show Ron the route to an improved life.



Vince knew the ropes. In the first day alone Vince and Ron trekked across the city to the California DMV at Fell and Baker Streets to obtain Ron's CA. I.D. and then to the Social Security office on Kearny St. to request a copy of Ron's Social Security card—two items of absolute necessity when fighting through the bureaucracy often encountered when applying for benefits, medical insurance, and housing. Throughout, Vince referred back to the advice and encouragement he had received from North Beach Citizens.

Currently, Ron is waiting to receive his first Social Security check and adjusting to his new life indoors—made immediately possible by NBC's Housing Stabilization program. Ron is still encountering numerous health problems, but he is now able to address the quality of his life instead mere survival.

**North Beach Citizens**

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### You Need Nert!

*continued from page 21*

New Orleans, recommend possibly up to one week's worth of supplies.

As I learned more from and about NERT, I became motivated to become the local team leader for Telegraph Hill and to receive extra leadership training to prepare me for that role.

Those interested in participating in NERT

should go to the NERT web site at [www.sfgov.org/sffdntert](http://www.sfgov.org/sffdntert) to register or or call the NERT Training Registration Line 970-2024. If you want more information from me you can call or e-mail me at 415-986-8300 or [jack@oswald.com](mailto:jack@oswald.com). More information is also available at [www.sfgov.org/sffdntert](http://www.sfgov.org/sffdntert) and [www.72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org). ♦

## THE ALFA NOSE

continued from page 23

a line that would serve THDers well, "Remember... not to forget." No corporate sponsors here, just a grass root movement and a day off from the usual insanity of bureaucratic encroachment.

### Changin' Times

The Cannery is no longer owned by Chris

Martin's family. It is now owned by Vernando, a New York "multibillion" interest. The Oakville Grocery has moved out and local Cannery managers are looking for businesses. Kudos to Chris for maintaining the historic integrity of the building, and we hope the new owners will continue that SF tradition.



Aaron Peskin looks on as Phil Frank sketches at THD's Waterfront Restaurant dinner.



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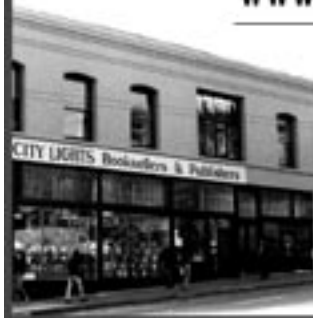
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*From the Heart of Tuscany  
To the Heart of San Francisco*

# WHERE THE GOOD TIMES ROLL:

By Kathleen Cannon

Since the 1940's, Gino & Carlo (located at 548 Green Street, open 6 am to 2 am, seven days a week) has served the needs of the working man in North Beach. "Keep everyone happy and make sure they have a full stomach" is the philosophy, relates Frank Rossi, and it is just as important today as when Frank's brother, Donato Rossi, bought into Gino & Carlo in 1956. The much loved Donato passed away in 2005, but Frank Rossi carries on the tradition with three dedicated partners, Frank Cola, Ron Minolli and Marco Rossi.

It's said "nobody goes hungry at Gino & Carlo." A longshoreman just returned from Sri Lanka is so happy to be back he orders slabs of Golden Boy pepperoni Pizza for the entire room. Sometimes the patrons feed each other. Gino & Carlo is 'Everyman's Bar' . . . where ladies are welcome.

The biographies of the original Gino and Carlo have become clouded by the mists of time. Frank knows the bar was acquired "from Tony and Mario

in 1942." Donato Rossi arrived from Italy in 1955 and bought into the establishment in 1956. Brother Frank became a partner in 1959, and has been there for 38 years. Ron Minolli, who used to deliver water to Gino & Carlo, gave up a position with the San Francisco Fire Department to buy in in 1979. After owning another Columbus Avenue bar, Frank Colla became a partner in 1980. Young Marco Rossi, nephew of Frank, became a partner 20 years ago.

Though primarily in the business of dispensing highballs ("no happy hour here, the drinks are always priced right"), Gino & Carlo is just as much a community as a saloon. The establishment sponsors local softball teams and Bocce ball every Sunday, holds Pedro tournaments (a card game where "everyone yells at each other"), and oversees serious pool tournaments. The bar's pool team has won a championship the past four years and the softball team earned second place in league competition the last three years. The establishment makes donations to St. Anthony's and the Sicilian Boys Clubs. Lunches are catered every other Thursday: Osso Bucco, rack of lamb, salmon, with salad and pasta. These are delicious, popular affairs where neighborhood groups from the Sunset or the Excelsior sit together and catch up over laughter and Manhattans. Benefits and memorials are also commonplace. "If someone has an accident or is down on their luck, we'll do a benefit for them . . . company means a lot to older guys," says Frank Rossi, explaining a tradition of generosity which goes back to the longshoremen's strikes of the 1950s.

Historically, the current Gino & Carlo's established its roots as a watering hole for longshoremen, teamsters and Golden Gate Scavengers. "It was simply an Italian bar...before Hippies, during Hippies, Lenny Bruce, lots of poets like Bob Kaufmann, Gene Ruggles...a combination of literary bar and Italiana,"

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# THE LEGENDARY GINO AND CARLO

said Frank Rossi. But the Glitterati also sought it out, and still do. Frank Sinatra's signed photograph hangs on the wall. ("Can I sign it for you, Frank?" offered Frank.) Dean Martin lounged on a bar stool. Janis Joplin drank Southern Comfort with her entourage and hung out. Francis Ford Coppola, Dennis Hopper, Nicholas Cage, Meg Ryan, the crew of EdTV, Matt Dylan have visited and drank. Then there are the sports guys. Ballplayers like Vida Blue and sports big-wigs like Brian Sabean and Eddie DeBartelo, have shared the bar with locals. Supervisor Aaron Peskin, whose office is across the street, comes in regularly.

Underneath a portrait of himself, the ghost of Charles McCabe, legendary *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist, still nurses a beer on the stool where he penned his column from 1974 until he died in the mid-1980s. McCabe, who "had enough columns in his head to write forever," wrote from this perch, never going into the *Chronicle* offices. The only time you could be sure he would not be around is when fellow columnist Herb Caen showed up.

Gino & Carlo continues to be home to a diverse cross-section of San Franciscans. One Friday evening, owner Ron Minolli ran down profiles of the patrons

in a full barroom: paralegals, Local 510 Teamsters, a retired senior electrical Muni engineer (who claims ever since he's retired, Muni went down hill), the retired owner of Fisherman's Grotto #9, several bookies, two policemen, a couple of retired Sunset Scavengers, Diane Feinstein's sister Lynn, a mortgage broker and his client, two convicts ("ex" I hope?), a disc jockey/main framer from Hewlett Packard, an ex cabdriver/lawyer who is now a happier ESL instructor, "Lefty," a Schwab main framer, two waiters from North Beach Restaurant, the Freight Manager of Operations for Moscone Center, Dick Winn (who is scheduled to perform with singer Carol Doda), a former football player for Kansas City...and the list goes on. As the night gets later, a younger crowd will infuse the barroom and pool tables with their energy. They also have heard that Gino & Carlo is a good time.

How does a bar like Gino & Carlo endure for so many decades? Dick Boyd, former club owner and author of *Broadway North Beach, The Golden Years*, gives a clue. "When you're younger and your hormones are in control, you go where the girls are; when you're older it's where your buddies are; and, you have to like the bartender." Gino & Carlo has it all – friends, sports and girls . . . and an honest shot. ♦



Donato Rossi

## HELP THE 'HOOD Shop Locally

# THD BOARD MOTIONS

FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY-SEPTEMBER 2006

## January:

MOTION: "That Tom Noyes fill the vacant Board of Director's position."

The Motion passed.

## February:

MOTION: "To authorize Sarah Kliban to spend \$2000 to execute the North Beach t-shirt project as presented to the Board."

The Motion passed.

## March

MOTION: "For the purpose of amending the current THD By-Laws, the Board interprets Article 11 to require an up or down vote such that no amendments are allowed to the proposed Amendment to the By-Laws."

The Motion passed.



## New THD Board Members 2007-2008

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**Termeh Dimi Yeghiazarian**, a visual artist, has lived in the neighborhood for 15 years, and brings a wide range of interests to the board. She's been researching neighborhood census information for the Planning and Zoning Committee's history project. And

as an artist who has been forced to move her studio by rising rents, she'd like to see studio space available in the neighborhood to give local artists a stable place to work and to show their work.



**Robert Mattei**, a transplanted Philadelphian, is enthusiastic about living on the Hill. A relative newcomer to Castle Street, he has organized his neighbors in a tree planting project, and is working

to slow the traffic on that narrow street. He has worked in his family's restaurant business, but is now primarily involved in real estate.



## ANOTHER PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

THD member Marc Bruno drafted the following proposal to amend the bylaws to add additional language regarding the number of renters on the THD Board and submitted it via petition. The petition is signed by more than 18 members and therefore, under our bylaws, the President is required to set a special meeting.

The bylaws currently address renters and owners on the Board in Article V, Section 4 as follows: The constituency of the board of directors shall include representation from all four (4) major sections of the Hill and a reasonable balance between resident property owners (including resident members of a property owners immediate family) and resident tenants."No more than one (1) member of a family at a time shall serve as a member of the board of directors."

The proposed amendment reads:

"Section 4. Officers and directors shall be residents of the defined area of Telegraph Hill and members in good standing of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. The constituency of the board of directors shall include representation from all four (4) major sections of the Hill and at least one half (50%) of the board of directors shall be resident tenants, the remaining members to be resident property owners (including resident members of a property owners immediate family)."

A special meeting will be set on a date and time to be announced.



# TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Voice Mail/Hotline: 273-1004. Fax: 255-6499. Web Site: [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org)

P.O. Box 330159 • San Francisco, CA 94133

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

PRESIDENT: Vedica Puri; [vpuri@pillsburylevinson.com](mailto:vpuri@pillsburylevinson.com)

VICE PRESIDENT: Nancy Shanahan; [nshan@mindspring.com](mailto:nshan@mindspring.com)

RECORDING SEC'Y: Mary Lipian; [lipianmw@aetna.com](mailto:lipianmw@aetna.com)

CORRESPONDING SEC'Y: Mike Madrid; [heaven4@pacbell.net](mailto:heaven4@pacbell.net)

TREASURER: Greg Chiampou; [gchiampou@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gchiampou@sbcglobal.net)

FINANCIAL SEC'Y: Pat Lusse; [lusses@pacbell.net](mailto:lusses@pacbell.net)

HISTORIAN: Termeh Yegouzarian; [termeh@isp.com](mailto:termeh@isp.com)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Brad Willmore; [willmore@sfcadvisors.com](mailto:willmore@sfcadvisors.com)

SEMAPHORE EDITOR: Art Peterson; [artpeterson@writingproject.org](mailto:artpeterson@writingproject.org)

## DIRECTORS 2007-2009

Bernie Myerson; [ber8832@aol.com](mailto:ber8832@aol.com)

Paul Kohler; [paul.kohler@gmail.com](mailto:paul.kohler@gmail.com)

Robert Mattei; [roxyrobert@comcast.net](mailto:roxyrobert@comcast.net)

Sarah Klibin; [skliban@value.net](mailto:skliban@value.net)

## DIRECTORS 2007-2008

Patsy Chan; [pvc@ac8.com](mailto:pvc@ac8.com)

Al Fontes; [Alfred@fontes.org](mailto:Alfred@fontes.org)

Sherry O'Donnell; [sherrysean@aol.com](mailto:sherrysean@aol.com)

Stan Teng; [stanarch@earthlink.net](mailto:stanarch@earthlink.net)

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# THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

You can make a difference! Join one of THD's committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION.** Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic.

**PLANNING AND ZONING.** Nancy Shanahan, 986-7094, Mary Lipian, 391-5652. Monitors and reviews proposed development projects for consistency with applicable City ordinances. Works with Planning Department staff and represents THD before the Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and other regulating bodies to protect historic resources and maintain neighborhood character. Assists members to learn more about and participate in planning and zoning issues.

**SEMAPHORE.** Editor, Art Peterson 956-7817; [artpeterson@writingproject.org](mailto:artpeterson@writingproject.org). The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

**PROGRAM.** Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

**BUDGET.** Greg Chiampou; [gchiampou@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gchiampou@sbcglobal.net). As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Pat Lusse; [membership@thd.org](mailto:membership@thd.org). As prescribed in Bylaws for Financial Secretary.

**ARCHIVIST:** Rozell Overmire; [rozell@ureach.com](mailto:rozell@ureach.com)

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

**PARKS AND TREES.** Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.** Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792; [tmsli@sonic.net](mailto:tmsli@sonic.net). Rozell Overmire, 939-3945; [rozell@ureach.com](mailto:rozell@ureach.com). Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

**THD WEB SITE.** Webmaster, Al Fontes, 433-6515; [webmaster@thd.org](mailto:webmaster@thd.org). Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

## LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

**COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS.** Representative, Gerry Crowley, 781-4201; [gerrycrowley@aol.com](mailto:gerrycrowley@aol.com). City-wide organization interacts with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

**NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION.** Representative, Gerry Crowley, 781-4201; [gerrycrowley@aol.com](mailto:gerrycrowley@aol.com). Tel-Hi-sponsored group of residents, merchants and government agencies working together to address neighborhood issues.

**N.E.R.T. Jack Oswald.** [jack@oswald.com](mailto:jack@oswald.com). Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

## WEB SITE = [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org)

Whether you want to catch up on THD's Oral Histories, see what the THD is up to, or submit old photos of the Hill, [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org) is the place to go. Use the Web site to discover or email information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between *Semaphores*.

## THD CALENDAR

### SCHEDULES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**PLANNING & ZONING:** First Thursdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070, 563-3494, 391-5652.

Look to the THD website for information on THD events.

Log on to <http://www.thd.org>

## For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

THD Welcomes New Members February 2007 to April 2007

Celeste Maher, Claudine Cheng, Scott O'Brian Marsh/Richard Porcella, Brad Nicholson, Suzanne Nelson, Tony Long (rejoin), Sarah Tooley, Shimin Li/Kiril Dobrovolsky, Mel & Maxine Solomon

### NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

Sign Up or Sign a Friend Up as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior (age 65 and over) \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

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